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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
VAZIMAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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To Chief SR
Info Chief WE

PP 5328

From Chief of Station, []
23 February 1962

AERODYNAMIC/REDSKIN
Status Report on AECASSOWARY/29

1. In order of priority, AECASSOWARY/29 is deemed able to mount five distinct types of operations under [] guidance: short and long REDSKIN travel missions to the Ukraine, contact operations at international conferences, contact operations with Ukrainian maritime personnel in Antwerp, REDCAP LCIMPROVE and, fifthly, occasional KUCAGE press and mailing operations. Each of these functions will be described separately below.

2. AECASSOWARY/29 has been sufficiently successful that [] would like to request Headquarters approval for him to transfer to PGS and remain under this Station for at least two years. Originally it was believed it would be at least six months before any reasonable estimate of his value to this Station would be possible. He has made enough progress in REDSKIN during the two and a half months to justify this recommendation. Even so, [] probably would have delayed this recommendation one more month until REDCAP, contact operations and WARY/29's plan to return briefly to New York to see his son and remarry, it seems appropriate to decide one way or another, both on the basis of progress to date and the Station's need for a more substantial infra-structure in the Soviet field. His two main lines of effort have been: first, to locate prospective agents for REDSKIN trips and, secondly, the recruitment and exploitation of singleton spotters-assessors in Brussels, Louvain, Liège, Ghent and Antwerp. All other activities have been accorded secondary importance and emphasis to these.

3. REDSKIN. AECASSOWARY/29 has located two candidates, willing and qualified for REDSKIN travel operations and has gained the unwitting confidential cooperation of spotters in all the Belgian cities mentioned above except Antwerp. Details on the identities of these prospective agents and spotters have been or will be forwarded separately. All of the people involved have university degrees and most are already well advanced in their private professions. The REDSKIN mission candidates are aged 22 and 26 respectively. None of the spotters are below the age of 35. Their professions run from scientist, to neurologist, to PhD candidate in Political Science, to lawyer, to priest. All of them have been checked out in the Station cards and with the [] with negative derogatory results. One of them was a recruited agent of this Station during the Brussels World Fair (see OBRA 9640 of 21 February 1958 and DIR 07884 of 12 February 1958). This man had the cryptonym []. None of these persons has been given the slightest indication of AECASSOWARY/29's connection with CBYOKE.

4. The Station has been both surprised and gratified to learn that among Ukrainians settled in Belgium there is a small elite and not just coal miners, menial job holders and wives of Flemish factory workers, as had been feared. This elite is by no means vast. For example, there are only 35 Ukrainian graduates from Louvain University in Belgium (this is the only university Ukrainians have attended). In addition, there are some 70 Ukrainians with Belgian high school degrees. Some of the latter have had a year or so of college education as well. At the moment there are 7 male students at the University of Louvain, one of which has been recruited for a REDSKIN mission (see OBRA 16855). There are about 2000 Ukrainian women in Belgium, out of which AECASSOWARY/29 has turned up 7 or 8 attractive candidates. (One of the latter may prove interesting in the REDCAP field, since she is in contact with the Soviet Embassy). For material on these women see OBRA 16856. So much for REDSKIN into the USSR. Note that the above brief survey does not preclude AECASSOWARY/29 finding other attractive candidates here, who perhaps are weak on formal education but quite so on the interesting locale in the Ukraine. He is by no means thoroughly familiar with the Ukrainian society here, but seems to have the correct outlook and some important details. Proper security precautions have prevented him from acquiring further

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and meeting large numbers of people. He deals through intermediaries primarily in order to preserve his own security. Almost all the information above comes from confidential spotters. When one considers that REDSKIN missions are only one, albeit the most important, of five types of operations mentioned above, the Station feels that the progress he has made is more than satisfactory.

5. As mentioned in earlier dispatches, AECASSOWARY/29 and the Station are looking not only at targets in Belgium, but also considering Belgium as a training and dispatch focal point for Ukrainian agents residing permanently in other countries, such as France and Holland.

6. Contact Operations. While the opportunities for this type of operation in Belgium during 1962 is still a relatively unknown quantity, the Station is now in the process of checking out via an ODAGED officer possible Ukrainian attendances at various Congresses slated to take place in Belgium throughout 1962. If Ukrainians are expected to attend any of these, AECASSOWARY/29 believes he can find suitable Ukrainian residents in Western Europe to attend or to saunter around the fringes and make contact with Soviet Ukrainian delegates. To be suitable, a Ukrainian living abroad should naturally be in a profession or field of study allied to the major topic of the conference. AECASSOWARY/29 has had a fair amount of experience in behind-the-scenes direction of such operations in years past. If desired AECASSOWARY/29 and his subagents can be made available for contact operations in other parts of Western Europe. For example, the forthcoming Helsinki Youth Festival seems to AECASSOWARY/29 and the Station to be a suitable arena for contact operations and KUCAGE work. If Headquarters approves, he would like to brief and dispatch this former REDSKIN agent from Aachen to Helsinki. He plans to ask this young man to write his Soviet girlfriend and suggest that she too try to go to the Youth Festival. If this young man and the Ukrainian girl turn up in Helsinki simultaneously, the plan would call for him to recruit her and establish a clandestine communications channel with her as a substitute for international open text mail. The young man in Aachen is identical with the subject of OSBA connection with AEBREHIVE, AECASSOWARY/29 would like to pass on the suggestion to AECASSOWARY/2 that it would not be too early to start preparing and printing pamphlets, if this has not already been done.

7. REDCAP/LCTMPROVE. One of the 7 or 8 Ukrainian women who might be of operational interest is reputed to be a good, solid anti-Communist nationalist who has good contacts with the Soviet Embassy where she pleads cases of Ukrainians who want to go back to see their relatives. Through a suitable outlet, AECASSOWARY/29 will try to find out what she knows.

8. Antwerp. Here the surface has barely been scratched. The problem is to find who is living in Antwerp now who could have contact with sailors or, better, who logically could move to Antwerp after being trained in contact operations and elicitation. It probably will not be easy to find the right person. It may be impossible. KUTHER and not KUCAGE would be the sole purpose of such an endeavor.

9. KUCAGE. AECASSOWARY/29 has written one anonymous article on the Ukrainian problem which is now in the hands of La Libre Belgique and may be published. A second article is in preparation. Some twenty copies of the AEBREHIVE bulletin have been mailed by AECASSOWARY/29 to addresses in the Soviet Union. Some mailing operations to Ukrainian members of Soviet Embassies in the Benelux area and France are also under discussion, but will be cleared with Headquarters first.

10. Efficiency. AECASSOWARY/29 takes a gratifyingly aggressive yet cautious attitude towards operations. He is a good P/A. He has reached a stage in laying the groundwork for travel and contact operations which the Station frankly would not have expected him to reach until about mid-May. He keeps quite busy and to date has made no blunders of commission or omission. Even the undersigned's point of view he has taken just the right amount of initiative and sought the right amount of advice and supervision from the Station except in one respect: he has sought and received an exceptionally high amount of advice in finding living quarters and getting his documentation straightened out. Now these problems are solved and his facility with everyday French is becoming a reality.

11. Morale. From the outset he has stated that he does not wish to remain in Belgium unless there is full agreement that his work here would be of value.

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From the purely personal point of view, he prefers living in New York where he has two people to whom he is deeply attached: his 5-year-old son and his fiancée. Recently divorced, he has made no bones about being rather lonely in Belgium and wishes to settle his personal life as soon as possible. This means that he wishes to see his son, remarry and bring his new wife back to Brussels, if it is agreed that he will work here. He is indeed so anxious to see his son and fiancée that he is prepared to pay his own round trip to New York, if AERBEHIVE cannot foot any or all of the bill. He is thinking in terms of approximately a three-week trip. Both the Station and the agent favor this trip (and now rather than later) because:

- a. the REDSKIN training season should begin in May.
- b. there is now no priority work for AECASSOWARY/29 which cannot be postponed for one month.
- c. from the security point of view, now is a good time to leave for a while (the agent has not told his spotters that Belgium will be the center of his activities).
- d. the new wife could be of decided use to him also, for various types of operational support: secretarial, stenographic, translation, counter-surveillance, creating rapport with Ukrainian wives who are married to Belgians and intend to travel to the Ukraine. (Either a minimal hourly wage or a small monthly boost in AECASSOWARY/29's own salary ought to cover this.)

12. It is the firm opinion of the writer that AECASSOWARY/29 did not expect when he came to miss his son and fiancée to the degree he does now. He seemed fully prepared to stay for six months when he arrived and made no mention of either until early February. Probably the dismal weather, his gloomy living quarters and lack of human companionship have not been inconsequential factors.

13. Before closing it would be appropriate to add that one consideration integral to Brussels' recommendation to keep AECASSOWARY/29 on PCS is that without him the Station would lack access to one of the few sections of Belgian society which has a genuine degree of interest, background, understanding and courage vis-a-vis the USSR. It is not exaggerated to say that of all the Station's KUTUBE assets only [] has these characteristics, but the Station is not in direct touch with him and there are several restrictions on his use. Until one or more of AECASSOWARY/29's subassets here gains experience in clandestine operations, sending AECASSOWARY/29 home and taking over some of his assets would probably complicate rather than help out, operationally speaking. This is one of the reasons why two years is felt to be a logical PCS term.

14. This dispatch covers a great deal of ground in too panoramic a fashion. Unfortunately, it could not be written otherwise and make the 23 February pouch. Further details follow soonest. As Headquarters has undoubtedly guessed, the Soviet defector in Brussels has usurped case officer time to the disadvantage of correspondence on Project AERODYNAMIC. This situation is drawing to a close.

15. Please cable approval on the proposed trip to New York. This Station does not know if there is any AECASSOWARY/KUTUBE specifically operational benefit to be derived from his presence in New York, but would nevertheless like to recommend that, at the least, AERBEHIVE cover the cost of his new wife's travel to Brussels.

23 February 1962

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